

Message Text

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SUBJECT: POLITICAL STRUGGLE IN AMSTERDAM MAY RESULT IN MORE
MODERATE CITY GOVERNMENT

1. FOR THE PAST MONTH, AMSTERDAM'S CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN HAVE BEEN FACED WITH A BITTER INTERNAL POLITICAL STRUGGLE INVOLVING TWO OF THE CITY'S BEST KNOWN LEFT-WINGERS. ALTHOUGH NOT YET SETTLED, IT APPEARS THAT HOLLAND'S "RED" CAPITAL WILL SEE BOTH MEN LABOR PARTY MEMBER HAN LAMMERS AND THE RADICAL PARTY'S ROEL VAN DUYN, REMOVED FROM CITY GOVERNMENT.

2. SHOULD THEY BOTH GO, THE AMSTERDAM GOVERNMENT WILL LOSE, IN VAN DUYN'S CASE, ITS MORE COLORFUL (COLOR HIM BRIGHT RED) AND IN LAMMER'S CASE, MOST TALENTED MEMBERS. THEIR DEPARTURE MAY IN TURN BRING ABOUT A POLITICAL REALIGNMENT OF THE CITY'S BOARD OF ALDERMEN. AT PRESENT, IN CONTRAST TO THE GENERAL PRACTICE IN DUTCH MUNICIPALITIES, THE AMSTERDAM BOARD DOES NOT REFLECT THE POLITICAL MAKE-UP OF THE FULL CITY COUNCIL. RATHER, IT IS ENTIRELY COMPOSED OF LEFT-WING COUNCILMEN (FIVE LABOR, TWO COMMUNISTS, AND ONE RADICAL). LAMMERS, WHO ORIGINATED THE FIGHT BY OFFERING TO RESIGN IF VAN DUYN, HIS NEMESIS ON THE BOARD, WOULD ALSO RESIGN, BELIEVES IT WOULD BE MORE DEMOCRATIC IF COMPOSITION OF BOARD OF ALDERMEN REFLECTED COMPOSITION OF CITY COUNCILMEN, I.E., SOME REPRESENTATIVES FROM CENTER AND RIGHT.

3. HAN LAMMERS, AGE 42, IS ONE OF HOLLAND'S ORIGINAL "NEW LEFTERS,"

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A RADICAL GROUP WHICH WAS FORMED IN THE MID-1960'S AND WHICH HAS

NOW BEEN ABSORBED INTO PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL PARTIES. DESPITE
HIS NEW-LEFT ORIGINS, LAMMERS HAS BEEN A VOICE OF REASON IN
AMSTERDAM POLITICS, OFTEN CLASHING WITH VAN DUYN AND OTHERS
WHO ARE SIMPLY ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT. ALTHOUGH LAMMERS HAS ANGERED
MANY LABOR PARTY LEADERS FOR PRECIPITATING THE CURRENT FIGHT, HIS
PROSPECTS FOR A RETURN TO DUTCH POLITICS REMAIN GOOD. MANY
PEOPLE SEE HIM AS A FUTURE MINISTER OR PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER.
GOULD

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